Phasing out of Chlorofluoro Carbons

4285. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is obliged to phase out ODCs like the CFCs by January, 2003 under the Montreal Protocol;

(b) whether the CFCs were to be substituted by HFCs for this purpose;

(c) whether the refrigerator industry has made efforts for producing ecofridges;

(d) if so, whether it is adequate enough for reaching the date by 2003; and

(e) the action taken by Government for meeting the deadline in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) India is a Party to the Montreal Protocol and is obliged to phase out production and consumption of Chlorofluoro Carbons by January 2010.

(b) Chlorofluorocarbons were to be substituted by Hydrofluorocarbons, Hydro chlorofluoro Carbons and Hydro Carbons.

(c) to (e) Major munufacturers of domestic refrigerators in India have received financial assistance from the Multilateral Fund for producing refrigerators using eco-friendly substitutes of Ozone Depleting Substances. These projects are in various stages of implementation. The Ministry of Environment & Forests is monitoring the implementation of these projects to enable India to fulfill its commitments under the Montreal Protocol.

Flow of untreated effluents into Yamuna

4286. SHRI ANANTA SETHI :

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are taking steps to check the flow of untreated effluents into Yamuna;

(b) if so, the funds earmarked therefor,

(c) whether it is being done under the Yamuna Action Plan;

(d) whether the towns in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have been identified which are adding to Yamuna pollution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Yamuna Action Plan is Rs. 509.45 crore. Under this Plan, works have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns (Saharanpur, Muzzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, NOIDA, Vrindavan, Mathura, Agra and Etawah) are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns (Yamunagar, Karnal, Panipat, Sonepat, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Chhchhrauli, Gharaunda, Gohana, Indri, Palwal and Radaur) are in Haryana, besides Delhi. The works include construction of sewage treatment plants, intercepting sewers, crematoria, low cost toilets, bathing ghats, plantation and public participation. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 418 crore has been incurred on the action plan. In addition to two sewage treatment plants constructed under the Yamuna Action Plan in Delhi, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has taken up a Plan to construct another 14 sewage treatment Plants out of their own plan budget to increase the sewage treatment capacity from the present 1200 million litres per day to 2300 million litres per day. Out of these, 6 have already been completed and 7 are in advanced stages of completion and will be completed by March,2001. Tenders for the remaining one sewage treatment plant have been invited. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have also decided to undertake complete rehabilitation of the sewerage system so that all the surface drains presently discharging waste water into the river are intercepted and diverted for treatment to sewage treatment plants. A minimum flow of 10 cubic metres per second of fresh water is desired in the river for which all the riparian states except Delhi have started releasing their share. As a measure to tackle industrial pollution, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has decided to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants in 21 industrial estates of Delhi which are under implementation. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

has also issued closure orders to 2616 identified water polluting units. In Haryana, out of 21 identified grossly polluting units along Yamuna, 12 units are complying with discharge standards, five units are closed and four units are defaulters facing action under the environmental law. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, out of 11 grossly polluting units discharging waste water into river Yamuna, six units are complying with discharge standards, four units are closed and one unit is defaulting facing action under the environmental law.

Protecting the bio-diversity

4287. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working on an ambitious plan to protect bio-diversity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funding and operating agencies of the proposed plan ;

(c) by when the plan is likely to be launched; and

(d) whether any central coordinating agency has been set up for dealing with logistics, administration and different aspects of macro-level plan so as to tackle effectively the policies and actions needed for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has prepared a National Policy and Macrolevel Action Strategy on Biodiversity. For developing detailed microlevel action plans at State and regional levels, the Government has accessed funding to the tune of US$968,200 from Global Environment Facility for a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Project (NBSAP). Key features of this project include an emphasis on decentralised state level planing, and the use of interdisciplinary working groups to involve all sectors concerned with biodiversity conservation. The project is for a duration of two years.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is the executing agency for the project. For implementing this project, a consortium arrangement between Biotech Consortium India Ltd. (BCIL), New Delhi, and Kalpavriksh, an NGO has been worked out. BCIL is the Coordinating Agency to deal with